College Library

HAMILTON LIFE

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College

VOL. X CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1907 No. 10

A Timely Suggestion

It is a cause for real regret that interest in debating seems to be dying out here in College. None of our other college activities can give us quite the training that we derive from debating. The benefits of debating are invaluable in after life as well as at the present time. Nor does a debating team need to consist of the heaviest and best developed animals that can be obtained. In the field of debate we have an even chance with any and every college and university. And in the past years Hamilton teams have seldom failed to bring back the trophies of victory.

The cause or causes of this decline of interest in debating we have not inquired into; but the remedy is close at hand. A debating council has been suggested as a means of bringing forward the latent debating ability of the College. This council, as proposed, would consist of five members, two Faculty members and three from the undergraduates. Of these three undergraduates, one should be manager of the debating team. Two should be elected from the Senior and one from the Junior class. No doubt it might be decided later as to whether these members of the council should be elected by the whole College or by the two upper classes.

The duties of this debating council would be to exercise a general supervision over the College activity along debating lines. The manager of the debating team would obtain a schedule as now do the managers of the other College teams, and it would be within the province of the council to approve of this schedule.

The expense involved in arranging for debates with other colleges should be supported by student subscription, inasmuch as it is practically impossible to obtain a guarantee of any sort for a debate. The manager of the debating team would thus have general charge of the finances of the debating department and would not be ineligible for a place on the team should he prove his worthiness. The members of the council would also be allowed a place on the regular team provided they win the position by their efforts along debating lines.

Such is the outline of the plan of a debating council. It is not a perfect plan in the sense that it will admit of no modification, but it will no doubt serve to organize and set in motion the work of the debating council. The need and value of a debating team are conceded by all. It only remains, therefore, to place our debating on an organized foundation along with our other activities and then to devote enough time to the production of a debating team to win for Hamilton every debate in which we engage. To this end we are convinced that the debating council will accomplish much toward keeping Hamilton's debating pennant nailed firmly to the masthead.

Musical Clubs Concert

All the preparations for the Musical Clubs Concert, in Utica, at the New Century Auditorium, Dec. 2nd, are nearing completion. The concert will commence promptly at eight. Dancing of Sophomore Hop will probably start about 10:30. The concert this year will be distinctly in the line of a novelty. All the numbers are new and are said to be very catchy. The quartet has changed its head-lines from "Negro Melodies" to the "Foolish Four," which four will furnish several surprises. Practically all the quartet numbers have never been heard by the College, and are said to be of the first class. Hastings, '10, is sure to please as anyone who has heard him sing will testify. Weekes, '08, a new comer in the solo class, is booked for something of a more classical nature: Kröntyman, opus 231. Simmons, '08, and Sarles, '10, are down for "Sort of an Olio" — whatever that is, they refuse to state.

The Instrumental Club will give three numbers — good ones as usual.

A new Campus Medley has been arranged by Purdy, '06, and is said to be fine.

A special car will be run from Utica to Clinton, leaving at 2:15 a. m., thus making it possible to enjoy the Hop and still be back on the Hill for the night. "Hop" tickets are on sale with the committee, of which Harper, '10, is chairman, at $1.50 per couple.

The advance sale for concert tickets has been unusually large, and those wishing good seats had better apply to Soper, '08, before they are all sold. They are $1.00 each, with some seats at 50c, also reserved.

Both clubs are experienced, as is one of the leaders, and a splendid concert will doubtless be given. That it should have the support of every Hamilton man goes without saying. The manager has planned an ambitious schedule and, to carry it out, must have the unanimous backing of the College. There should be no lights on the Hill on the evening of Dec. 2nd.

First Basketball Game

The first Basketball game of the season was played Monday night when the Freshman team took Ilion into camp to the tune of 105 to 5, and incidentally made more points than have ever been scored in a single basketball game on the Hill.

The game was called promptly at

8:30. G. B. Smith, '08, acted as referee, while H. W. Smith, '08, held the watch, the halves being 20 minutes each. The Freshmen lined up as follows:

Center: Allen.
Guards: Sidle, Getman.
Forwards: Gardner, Nixon.

From the first minute of play it was evident that Ilion was entirely outclassed, and this was immediately substantiated by the baskets that were thrown in rapid succession. At the end of the first half the scorekeepers, after comparing notes and performing mathematical calculations, finally came to the conclusion that the Freshmen had scored 55 points against a single tally for Ilion. In the second half, Wilder, Flagler and Blunt were substituted for Allen, Sidle and Nixon, and trouble began again for the scorekeepers.

The teams, belonging to two distinct classes, makes it hard to judge their respective merits. The Freshmen, however, showed up especially strong in offensive work and played a hard, fast game from start to finish, and deserve the hearty approbation of the College. A good crowd turned out, enabling the class management to clear about $8.50. Mitchell acted as cheer leader for the Freshmen and the yelling was spirited throughout the game.

The Modern Idea

At an intercollegiate gathering of some importance, an American College President said this: "The German University produces the scholar, the English University the gentleman, and the American, the man of affairs." The first two parts of this expression do not concern us very much, and we may not agree with them in their entirety.

But with the last we agree; or at least that the American College should not strive solely to produce the scholar. The subject naturally suggests the question: "What kind of educated men are graduated from our colleges every year?" And agreeing that high standing in scholarship is not the only attribute, "Why is it necessary to sacrifice this formerly much desired end of college training?"

In answer to the first question, we believe, from observation and some investigation, that the present-day college graduate is not the equal, in mere book knowledge, of the alumnus of the last generation.

This must necessarily be so. Conditions of classroom training today and twenty-five years ago are far different. They have changed with the times, and we believe aim to teach the student to think, rather than to memorize. There are other reasons why the college student of today cannot reel off "the facts" as his father could. The college man is getting his education more and more outside the classroom. An increasing interest in college activities is giving him an invaluable preliminary training in business.

This, added to the fact that fraternity and social life in college is widening, does not give him too much time to devote to his books. And so, though superficiality may be hinted at by some, the college student of today is getting two things and they seem to us the best; that is, mind and character.

Parents put their money into their sons' education. They naturally wish them to "make good." While a college training and a degree are a great satisfaction to a man, and usually give him a certain standing in a community, their possession should do more than this. He should be the one at the helm, having had every opportunity while others have not. Realizing this, we cannot feel more than a temporary regret that the old methods are passing, and, in almost every college in the country, have given place to a new system, in tune with the times.

We do not say that scholarship is being forgotten nowadays. But some of its room is being taken by a more practical part of college training, teaching a man to think, decide, and branch out for himself.

Rev. Dr. Russ Preaches

On Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Russ, a graduate of Princeton, gave an excellent sermon which was most heartily appreciated by those who heard him.

His theme was Christ's appeal to men. He said that you often heard Christianity referred to as a woman's religion, that the women filled our churches and were their mainstay. This is a natural thing; women have quicker intuitions and are more easily influenced by their feelings than are men. And all religion — Christian or Pagan — as well as every other telling force in the world, has its root in the emotions. Men feel before they act. Few men are aroused to decisive action by the intellect alone. And so women, in that emotion makes up a larger part of their lives than it does in men, are more readily brought under religious, and especially Christian, influence.

But besides this, Christianity has done so much for women in this life, that it would be rank ingratitude if some return was not made by them. After referring to the wretched condition of women which prevailed in non-Christian lands, he turned to his real subject — Christ's appeal to men. He first quoted Emerson's definition of manliness, saying that a manly character must include disinterestedness, power and courage. Disinterestedness means unselfishness; power means the ability to move men and ourselves; courage is the moral courage which every man cannot but admire.

He told of these characteristics as revealed in Christ's character and in the lives of men, bringing them home by illustrations with telling force. He told of an occurrence in his own college life at Princeton, when one of the members of a baseball team had the manly courage to stand up for fair play, when a very little connivance on his part would have allowed his team to win a hotly-contested game from Yale.

Dr. Russ comes from Richfield Springs, and after the splendid sermon he gave us he will always be a welcome visitor on the Hill.

—The fare on the special car to be run to Clinton after the Hop will be fifty cents. Tickets may be secured of Chairman Harper of the committee.

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SATURDAY, NOV. 30, 1907

Subscription price, $1.75 a year. Single copies 5 cents each. Advertising rates given on application to the Business Manager.

Address all business communications to the Business Manager and avoid delay.

Contributions and expressions of opinion are solicited from the student body and from interested alumni.

LIFE is entered at the Clinton postoffice as second-class matter.

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THAT IT IS thoughtlessness on the part of the offenders, we have no doubt. But even that cannot excuse one for tearing or cutting out articles from the newspapers and magazines in our reading-room. This is not the first time that the attention of LIFE has been called to this matter. It seems to be a temptation for a man to take out an article which he thinks no one else will care for, or which suits his purposes. One must not allow himself to be so easily deceived. Nothing is more exasperating than to go to read a certain item and find that a previous reader has taken it or, possibly, the whole page! Let it be remembered that every man has an equal right to all reading matter in the Y. M. C. A. and that for anyone to appropriate any part of it for personal use is inexcusable.

THE MEN WHO WORK on rapidly moving trains, around blast furnaces and in places of great danger, finally become so careless that accidents are the inevitable result.

This gradual hardening to danger is well recognized, and in fact, even on this Hill we have our own examples. The snow which graced Thanksgiving here furnishes the occasion for this warning. Last year the serious coasting accidents all came about when upperclassmen were steering. Now this wasn't because they did not know how to steer. It was because they knew how too well. "Familiarity breeds contempt" and contempt for anything so treacherous and uncertain as our Hill is a poor thing for any man to have. Now this year let us have a little ordinary common sense and prudence about the matter, and all sorts of accidents will be dispensed with. Discretion is *always* the better part of valor.

A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT fact noticed in the Annual Catalogues of the large colleges and universities is that the number of students enrolled is greatly increasing year by year. This can be accounted for in part by the fact that higher education is more popular today than ever before and more men are improving the opportunities of obtaining the benefit of a college training.

Notwithstanding this increased demand for higher education, the complaint is almost universal among the smaller colleges that they are not growing, and some are even falling off in the number of students.

This seems to be the evolution of the progress of education corresponding to that of business and finance in which the smaller interests are smothered by the greater ones and individual concerns are consolidated into a whole.

As yet Hamilton has not suffered but still we have not as many men as could be readily accommodated. Our dormitories are unexcelled, the thoroughness of Hamilton's course of instruction is far-famed, and a more efficient Faculty would be hard to find.

It would seem as if the time were ripe for putting forth our utmost efforts for a greater Hamilton.

Much, and probably the greater part, of such work falls upon the undergraduates and the Faculty, but we cannot overlook the part which alumni should play. They are scattered through various parts of the country, so situated that they can well influence men to enter their own Alma Mater. Many are doing this work but more should do it. Doubtless all the alumni associations are doing considerable work in the interest of the College, but we fear some of them are not doing as much as they might. Let us have a long pull and a strong pull and pull all together for old Hamilton.

LIFE does not overlook the fact that we are very fortunate here on the Hill in our buildings and appointments, and yet we cannot but voice our little suggestion for improvement in a feature that the past season has brought impressively to our attention: the condition of the Football field. The inconvenience that the squad was subjected to on account of the almost continuous sloppy condition of the gridiron, unquestionably detracted from the season's success. Though the rains were not particularly heavy, the field was seldom fast enough to make possible much development in speed of play which is our forte. The games, too, were marred by the slippery condition of the turf and the scores of the contests played here on the Hill, although they were all victories, would in all probability have been greater if the field had been other than a sea of mud. One instance that is ground for regret, but serves well as a contrast, is the handicap that the team worked under during the week prior to the Colgate game. Being forced to practice on the limited territory of the quadrangle, owing to use of the gridiron being precluded by its lake-like condition, the work was very much impeded. Even the day before the game the quadrangle had to be resorted to and yet on the very next day on our arrival at Colgate we found their gridiron to be as dry and fast as could be desired. It is deplorable: nor would it involve a great expense to remedy it. Could not those class-

es of recent graduation, which have as yet left no material memorial with us, take this as a seasonable suggestion?

SOME ONE HAS COME forward with the suggestion that "Lit" be copyrighted. At first the suggestion seems devoid of all practical advantage and inspired by the impulse of the moment. But is it? Would it not be of some advantage, at least, to know that the contributions to "Lit" could not be mercilessly plagiarized? There are articles which have been published in "Lit" that are worth protecting and which, unless protected, will most assuredly be used by other publications, which will not even give "Lit" the credit for these same articles. We were favorably enough impressed with the suggestion to look up the matter of obtaining copyrights, and found the following to be true.

The first step in obtaining a copyright is to file in the office of the Librarian of Congress a *printed* title of the periodical. None but a printed title is acceptable. Each issue of a periodical is regarded as an independent publication and requires a separate entry for each issue. Periodicals may, however, be copyrighted in advance by forwarding the printed titles of each issue, with corrected dates of publication. For each entry a fee of fifty cents is required.

On the day of publication, or not later than the following day, two complete copies of the work must be filed in the office of the Registrar of Copyrights at Washington.

A notice of copyright protection after the form prescribed by law must be printed in each issue.

We offer this suggestion, without further comment, to the editors of "Lit."

DURING THE PAST YEAR the question of more men for Hamilton has claimed greater attention than ever before in the history of the College. It is not that we have fewer men than in some past years, not that we fear at all for our existence and continued good work, but because we feel that we are not making the progress possible, because we think there are more men who ought to be enjoying the advantages and opportunities Hamilton could afford them.

The question is no longer, "Do we need more men?" but rather "How shall we get them?"

With all due respect to our Classical ideals, did you never feel that it was unfortunate to be obliged to turn a sub-freshman away from Hamilton because he had failed to prepare himself in Latin? Each year there are not a few men visiting the Hill who would like to enter but are forced to preclude the idea when told there is nothing for a man without Latin. This leads us to consider the advisability of a third course in our curriculum which would allow men to substitute more History or Modern Languages in the place of Latin. That this is not a novel idea we are assured. The necessity of filling our dormitories is a problem not confined to the undergraduate body. Certain members of the faculty are in favor of such a course and it seems to be generally believed that the change will become necessary in the near future. While we would not favor departing from the old régime as long as it seems sufficient for our needs, we do believe the factor of expediency would argue strongly for a third course in Hamilton College.

It would mean no radical changes nor the creation of any new departments. Practically no new branches of work would be taken up. That our classes would number a third larger seems highly probable, and we hope the College and its authorities will meet the question fairly and weigh it carefully.

Chi Psi Informal

The Alpha Phi of Chi Psi gave an informal on Tuesday night, November 26th, at Chi Psi Lodge. Dinner was served at 6:30, followed by dancing until twelve o'clock. The patronesses were: Mrs. F. E. Barrows and Mrs. J. D. Ibbotson, of Clinton; Mrs. C. A. Frost, Mrs. Spencer Kellogg and Mrs. E. E. Risley, of Utica; and Mrs. A. W. Fuller, of Albany. The guests were: Miss Katherine Bellinger, Miss Henrietta Peckham, Miss Helen Winant, Miss Lillian Lamb, Miss Harriett Sherman and Miss Elizabeth Ogden, of Utica; Miss Amelia Hower, Miss Helen Brown, Miss Antoinette Halstead and Miss Gwendolyn Edwards, of Rome; Miss Grace Fuller and Miss Marchia McLaughlin, of Albany; Miss Monday of Cooperstown; Miss Bertha Cauldwell and Miss Mary Hughes, of Clinton; Barrows, '07, and Carroll, '06; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hatch, of Waterville; Messrs Risley and Lamb, of Utica.

— Last Saturday's issue of "Men of Utica," the paper published by the Y. M. C. A., contains a fine photo of the officers and contestants in the cross-country run held last week. The picture was taken just before the men started.

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COLLEGE NOTES

— Engs and McMath, '10, are out for the assistant managership of the musical clubs.

— Saturday noon Chapel of next week will be held at five o'clock on Friday afternoon.

— Dr. Squires attended a session of the Court House Commission at Utica, Monday.

— Kazenstein, '09, is confined to his home at Verona with a severe attack of muscular rheumatism.

— Mansfield, '07, has accepted a position as assistant chemist in the Halcomb Steel Co. of Syracuse.

— Prof. Davenport spoke in Kingston last Sunday evening before the Men's Club of one of the churches in that city.

— Dr. Wood occupied the pulpit of Westminster Church, Utica, last Sunday morning in the absence of the regular pastor.

— Prof. White delivered the address at the union Thanksgiving service at the Methodist Church in Clinton Thursday morning.

— Subpoenas in the case entitled Allen vs. 1910 and 1911 have been served on the President of each class to appear in court, Saturday, Nov. 30.

— Plans are on foot to organize a Senior social club to meet fortnightly and to be called the Friday Night Club. Officers will be elected at the initial meeting on Friday evening.

— Williams and Watson were elected on the Senior debating team Wednesday morning. The two men will choose a third man and these three are to choose a fourth to make up the team.

— The Musical Clubs picture was taken last Saturday afternoon in Utica. Both clubs together number forty-two men. All those who wish pictures, hand their names to Soper, '08.

— A class in "Life Problems" was started Monday evening, with Prof. Morrill as leader. The first talk was given by Dr. Roy B. Dudley on "The Work and Aims of the Medical Profession."

— The results of the Junior "Stab" in debating are: A. S. Evans, Krumbholz, McLean, A. F. Osborn, Rifenbark, Truax, Wallace and Williams. These men will debate a week from Wednesday and, from the eight, four will be chosen to represent the class.

— Last Saturday evening the Junior D. T's. were entertained in the Chi Psi Lodge by Conklin, McLean and Roenke, '09. The greater part of the evening was spent in card playing and various diversions. A delicious repast was served later in the evening to which ample justice was done.

— There has just appeared from the press a small volume of the Half-Century Anniversary literary exercises of the D. K. E. Fraternity here in Hamilton, edited by Prof. Percy Loyall Wight, '91, containing the addresses of A. Norton Brockway, '57, Hon. Henry Harper Benedict, '69, Prof. Willis J. Beecher, '58, and Hon. Warren I. Lee, '99.

ALUMNIANA

'55. The death of Theodore Avery occurred recently in Utica. He was one of the best known members of the Oneida County bar.

'65. Docter Luthur A. Ostrander has just resigned from the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Lyons, N. Y., after twenty-five years of continuous service.

'67. Rev. I. O. Best has returned to the Presbyterian Church at Osceola, N. Y., after thirty-five years of service in the ministry and teaching. Osceola was Prof. Best's first pastorate.

'69. Hon. Henry Harper Benedict, has recently founded a hospital in Ilion N. Y., which is to cost $30,000.

'72. President Stryker preached last Sunday before the students of Cornell University.

A poem by President Stryker entitled, "The Rifted Veil" appeared in The Independent of Nov. 21.

'76. Prof. George P. Bristol, of Cornell University, and Dr. Edward L. Stevens, '90, are members of the University Convocation Council of the regents of the State of New York. Three out of five members of this council are Hamilton men, Dr. Squires of the Faculty making the third.

'77. Rev. F. D. Budlong, of Fairmont, Minn., has accepted a call to St. Martius Episcopal Church at Dorchester, Mass.

'78. Among the most energetic members of the Oneida County court house commission are Mr. Olney, '78, of Rome, and Mayor Kessinger, '88, of the same city.

'91. Rev. Henry W. Maier is now in charge of the new Congregational Church located at New Britain, Connecticut.

'06. Miss Barbara Bowlish and E. K. Edie, of Springville, N. Y., were married last Monday evening at Adams, N. Y. Mr. Edie holds a responsible position as translator and foreign correspondent for several large mail-order firms in Adams and Watertown.

Brokaw was on the Hill yesterday.

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